

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /026 W

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R 191300Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2084

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 5649

LONDON FOR EILBERG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL EILBERG

REF: BELGRADE 5499

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CODEL CONSISTING OF CHAIRMAN EILBERG AND CONGRESSMEN RUSSO, ZEFERITTI, HYDE, AND WIGGINS MET WITH FOLLOWING GOY OFFICIALS: DR. ANTON VRATUSA, VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL; FRANJO HERLJEVIC, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE, FEDERAL COUNCIL OF PARLIAMENT; DRAGUTIN GAZAPI, CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS; DUSAN STRBAC, CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION FOR EMIGRES AND IMMIGRATION. FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND DUSAN COTIC, ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE. THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED BY YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND CODEL DURING FOUR LENGTHY MEETINGS: YUGOSLAV JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEMS; PROBLEMS FACED IN YUGOSLAVIA BY US CITIZEN DUAL NATIONALS; HUMAN RIGHTS: ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM, IN CONTEXT OF GOY PERCEPTION OF US INABILITY AND/OR UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE "ACTIVE STAND AGAINST SUCH ACTS IN THE US; MIHAJLOVIC STATUE--A REPETITION OF THE GOY STAND ON THIS ISSUE

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WHICH THE EMBASSY ALREADY HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY; ARTUKOVIC-- OFFICIAL EXPRESSED GOY WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND EYEWITNESSES IF US DESIRES; INTERPOL-- YUGOSLAVS STRESSED NEED FOR BI-LATERAL CONSULTATION ON MEASURES TO INCREASE INTERPOL'S UTILITY; US CONSULAR ACCESS TO US PRISONERS IN YUGOSLAVIA--YUGOSLAVS PROMISED

TO FACILITATE FASTER, MORE FREQUENT ACCESS; AND, AS ALWAYS THE STANDARD HEAVY DOSAGE OF YUGOSLAV SELF-MANAGEMENT AND NON-ALIGNMENT. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE YUGOSLAVS' COMMENTS ON ARTUKOVIC, INTERPOL, US CONSULAR ACCESS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTUKOVIC. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING BY CODEL,

COTIC STATED REPEATEDLY THAT ARTUKOVIC, IF RETURNED TO YUGOSLAVIA WOULD RECEIVE A FAIR AND OPEN TRIAL. COTIC INDICATED THAT ARTUKOVIC WOULD BE TRIED UNDER SECTION 125 OF THE YUGOSLAV CRIMINAL CODE WHICH DEALS WITH GENOCIDE AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, CRIMES PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH. HE ADDED THAT ARTUKOVIC WOULD NOT BE TRIED FOR THE POLITICAL OFFENSE OF COLLABORATION WITH THE NAZIS BECAUSE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAS EXPIRED FOR THAT CRIME. COTIC STATED THAT YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT ALLOW THE TRIAL TO BECOME A "SPECTACLE", AND THAT US REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. COTIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WOULD REOPEN CASE, OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AND LOCATE AND PRODUCE EYEWITNESSES FOR AMERICAN DEPORTATION HEARING IF NECESSARY AS WELL AS FOR TRIAL IN YUGOSLAVIA; AND THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD PRODUCE DOCUMENTS WRITTEN AND/OR SIGNED BY ARTUKOVIC ORDERING THE DEATH OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COTIC CLAIMED THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD GUARANTEE ARTUKOVIC'S PERSONAL SAFETY BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE TRIAL. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE THE ABOVE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OR DIRECTLY TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE. IN THE MEANTIME, THE EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN THE ABOVE DOCUMENTATION FROM THE GOY.

3. INTERPOL. IN A VARIATION ON AN OLD THEME, HERLJEVIC EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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INTERPOL AND THE FBI AND SUGGESTED THAT US AND YUGOSLAV
"EXPERTS" MEET AND DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR GREATER US
AND YUGOSLAV COOPERATION WITH INTERPOL. SEE REFTEL.

4. US CONSULAR ACCESS IN YUGOSLAVIA. IN REPOSE TO
CODEL QUESTIONS CONCERNING US CONSULAR ACCESS, COTIC SAID
THAT WHEN AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE ARRESTED THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY IS IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED (PATENTLY UNTRUE) AND
"THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS" WITH REGARD TO EITHER EMBASSY
(CONSULAR) ACCESS TO AMERICAN PRISONERS OR ACCESS TO A
PRISONER BY HIS OR HER FAMILY. CONCERNING THE RECURRING
DIFFICULTY THE EMBASSY HAS EXPERIENCED IN SECURING TIMELY
ACCESS TO AMERICAN PRISONERS (DELAYS OF UP TO TWO MONTHS
ARE NOT UNUSUAL) COTIC STATED THAT SUCH PROBLEMS SHOULD BE
TAKEN UP BY THE EMBASSY WITH THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES,
WHICH WE HAVE DONE AND WILL DO AGAIN.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS. CODEL MEMBER RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS
EMPHASIS OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN RELATION TO DIFFICULTIES
AND TENSIONS IT CAUSED IN US/USSR RELATIONS AND ASKED IF
IT CAUSED ANY PROBLEMS IN US/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. PESIC
ANSWERED, "NO, WE ARE IN VANGUARD OF STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS." LATER, IN MEETING WITH VRATUSA, MEMBERS OF
CODEL CONTRASTED YUGOSLAVIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WITH
THAT OF SOVIET'S AND BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SOVIET PER-
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FORMANCE IN THIS AREA ENSUED.

6. IN HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH CODEL, FEC VICE PRES ANTON
VRATUSA TOUCHED IN SOMEWHAT WANDERING MANNER ON BROAD
RANGE OF MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES OF CONCERN.
OF POSSIBLE INTEREST ARE HIS COMMENTS ON:
-- KRSKO- "IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE GETTING THE
WESTINGHOUSE EQUIPMENT, BUT FURTHER GOOD WILL IS
NECESSARY SO THAT WHEN THE PLANT IS FINISHED IT MAY BE
PUT INTO OPERATION";
-- SSOD - "WE HAVE HAD THE FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE

US DELEGATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS" IN PURSUING "TIOT'S INITIATIVE" AT THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT FOR A SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON DISARMAMENT:

-- ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISTS (WHETHER IN US OR ELSEWHERE, HE DID NOT SPECIFY) - "THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THEY IN SOME INCIDENTS ARE INSTRUMENTS OF SOME INTERNATIONAL SERVICES" WHICH WISH TO DEFAME YUGOSLAVIA'S REPUTATION "AS A PLACE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM". (NOTE: LATER, IN AN AD HOC RUNDOWN OF FORCES INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DESIRING TO SWAY YUGOSLAVIA ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON ITS PATH OF DEVELOPMENT HE MENTIONED AGAIN "SOME INTERNATIONAL SERVICES" TRYING TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE ON YUGOSLAVIA'S DEVELOPMENT.);

--BEHAVIOR OF UNGA'S "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" IN RECENT YEARS - "I AGREE THAT THE MAJORITY IN THE UN SHOULD BE (MORE) AWARE OF WHERE ONE OR ANOTHER OF ITS RESOLUTIONS LEAVES THE WORLD COMMUNITY" (IMPLICIT ADMISSION THAT CERTAIN PAST "MAJORITY RESOLUTIONS" MAY NOT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS);

-- TERRORISM - "WE REJECT THE USE OF TERRORISM FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, "BUT UNLESS NATIONAL AIMS ANBU LEGITIMATE RIGHTS ARE UNDERSTOOD BY THE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNITY PEOPLE MIGHT BE LED BY DESPERATION TO UNDERTAKE TERRORIST ACTIONS.

7. INDEPENDENT OF THE DELEGATION, CHAIRMAN EILBERG MET THE PAPAL NUNCIO; VISTED THE DUBROVNIK SYNAGOGUE AND MET WITH RABBI THERE.
EAGLEBURGER

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